
From: Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Saturday, May 19, 2018 1:39 PM
To: Nachmany, Eli
Cc: Downey Magallanes; Todd Willens; Timothy Petty; Andrea Travnicek; Joseph Balash; Katharine MacGregor; Brian Steed; Casey Hammond; William Dove; John Tanner; Todd Wynn; Laura Rigas; Newell, Russell; John Bockmier; Heather Swift; Samantha Hebert; Leila Getto; Aaron Thiele; Boulton, Caroline
Subject: Re: SECOND DRAFT: Williston Basin remarks

Looks good. Some points:

- it notes in 2018 we are projected to produce avg. of 10.7 mln. of bbls of oil per day. I would change that and the prior point that says we are producing at an all time high record of 10.26 mln. The record is 10.26, but we are currently much higher. I suggest summarizing by saying we are now producing around 10.7 mln bopd, well above the all time oil production record - that was in place prior to this administration.
- similar note under the North Dakota section. It notes that we are producing 10.26. mln bopd. That number is the record, we are now producing in the 10.7 range so suggest updating that point.

> On May 18, 2018, at 6:05 PM, Nachmany, Eli <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

>

> Hi all,

>

> Attached please find the latest draft of the Williston Basin remarks. Memo is coming soon on this, given the large volume of ONRR/BLM data coming in. I have put together three pages of remarks, as well as a fourth page that is a "North Dakota oil and gas fact sheet" for the Secretary to reference during the speech.

>

> Heather - there is a point about a President-led reorg just after the recount of accomplishments, and I have added information on the Orders RE: permitting, as well as adding Kate's information on APDs.

>

> --

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Eli Nachmany

> Speechwriter, Office of Communications U.S. Department of the Interior

> (202) 706-9285

> <0514 Williston Basin.docx>

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 8, 2018 4:04 PM
To: OS, OS FOIA
Cc: Scott Angelle; Joseph Balash; Thomas Baptiste; Kathleen Benedetto; John Bockmier; Caroline Boulton; Brenda Burman; Scott Cameron; James Cason; Benjamin Cassidy; Micah Chambers; Gavin Clarkson; Susan Combs; Critchfield, Marshall; Natalie Davis; Vincent Devito; Doug Domenech; Douglas Domenech; Jason Funes; Zachariah Gambill; Leila Getto; Casey Hammond; Alex Hinson; Scott Hommel; Virginia Johnson; Daniel Jorjani; Amanda Kaster; Katharine MacGregor; Downey Magallanes; Lori Mashburn; David Mihalic; Alan Mikkelsen; Eli Nachmany; Russell Newell; Timothy Petty; James Schindler; Greg Sheehan; Aurelia Skipwith; Steven Smith; John Tahsuda; Aaron Thiele; Vander Voort, Faith; James Voyles; Stephen Wackowski; Wackowski, Stephen; Todd Willens; Timothy Williams; Wadi Yakhour; Gareth Rees; Gabriel Lohr; Clarice Julka
Subject: Re: Awareness Review for Active Litigation - 1:17-cv-01779-RDM/OS-2017-00938

WHAT IS THIS IN RESPONSE TO?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Wed, Jun 6, 2018 at 12:32 PM, OS, OS FOIA <osfoia@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
All,

Pursuant to the [Awareness Process for FOIA Productions](#) memorandum, dated May 24, 2018, I am seeking comments from all PAS, NCSE, or Schedule C employees whose names appear in the attached records.

If you are receiving this message, then your name appears in one or both of the attached files. In accordance with the aforementioned memorandum, **you have up to 72 hours to review and comment on these records.** If no comment is received, then the Department will assume you have none.

Assistants for Secretary Zinke and Deputy Secretary Bernhardt should note that these records may concern both the assistants and principles. They should be reviewed as such.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Justin

--

Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary, FOIA Office
1849 C Street, NW, MS-7328
Washington, D.C. 20240
os_foia@ios.doi.gov
(202) 513-0765 - phone

| (202) 219-2374 - fax

From: Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 8, 2018 6:07 AM
To: James Schindler
Cc: Hinson, Alex; Swift, Heather
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] AP query-royalty policy committee

Enjoy your vacation!!

On Aug 8, 2018, at 4:17 AM, James Schindler <james.schindler@boem.gov> wrote:

Hi, sorry (b) (6) am just seeing this. (*PREDECISIONAL & PENDING LITIGATION* I read the entire complaint and am comfortable saying (b) (5), as I understand them.)

As far as how we respond to the press inquiry, if we want to respond, I suggest we share the following bulletpoints and the following (edited by you all) quote:

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Call me day or night with questions: (b) (6). If I don't answer I'm somewhere with no service. Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2018, at 10:40 AM, Hinson, Alex <alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

James? Stopped by your office earlier and also didn't see you at the political meeting.

On Tue, Aug 7, 2018 at 2:38 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hey guys - anything on this?

-

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](#) | [@SecretaryZinke](#) | [@Interior](#)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Tue, Aug 7, 2018 at 12:44 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Can you guys work on this please?

-

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](#) | [@SecretaryZinke](#) | [@Interior](#)
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brown, Matthew** <MBrown@ap.org>
Date: Tue, Aug 7, 2018 at 12:41 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AP query-royalty policy committee
To: Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>, "rpc@ios.doi.gov" <rpc@ios.doi.gov>, "Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov" <Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov>, "Winston, Beverly" <bwinston@blm.gov>

Greetings-

I'm trying to get some details on the actions taken/recommendations made to date by Interior's Royalty Policy Committee.

We are anticipating a lawsuit today from a conservation group asking a federal judge to disband the committee. I will follow up with a request for comment on that once it's filed, realizing there's not much you likely can say. Generally, the allegations are that the committee favors industry and that subcommittee meetings haven't been properly noticed in violation of Federal Advisory Committee Act. Any response to those allegations in particular would be most welcome.

We also want to properly describe what the committee has and has not done to date. I see a lot of information available on line, but some of it is dated and I'm hoping to get a straight up rundown of recommendations that have been made, if possible. I know there was the recommendation to lower offshore royalty rates, which Sec. Zinke ultimately rejected. Any other recommendations that have been finalized and/or acted upon?

Please let me know at your earliest chance. I can be reached at 406 696 4213 or mbrown@ap.org

Thanks for your time and all help

Matt Brown

<image003.jpg>

Matthew Brown

Associated Press Correspondent

PO Box 36300

Billings, MT 59107

mbrown@ap.org

phone-406 896 1528

mobile-406 696 4213

fax-406 896 8117

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--

Alex Hinson

**Deputy Press Secretary
Department of the Interior**

From: Devito, Vincent <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 11:24 AM
To: Moore, Debra; Gisella Ojeda-dodds
Cc: James Schindler; Scott Hommel; Downey Magallanes; Michael Argo; Joshua Campbell; David Bernhardt; James Cason; Scott Cameron; Andrea Travnicek; Joseph Balash; Katharine MacGregor; Casey Hammond; William Dove; Preston Beard; Landon Davis; Jason Larrabee; John Tahsuda; Blake Deeley; Todd Wynn; Timothy Williams; Jason Funes; Laura Rigas; Russell Newell; Heather Swift; Eli Nachmany; Leila Getto; Natasha Alcantara; Gurney Small
Subject: Re: BOEM-2018-00067: Awareness of FOIA Production Release

I do not have permission to access this folder. Thanks.

On Tue, Jun 26, 2018 at 10:22 AM, Moore, Debra <debra.moore@boem.gov> wrote:

All,

As directed by the FOIA Policy Office, this is a 72 hour notification of release of material regarding a FOIA request from Jesse Coleman of Documented, seeking emails from Energy Counselor DeVito to BOEM (please note: Mr. Coleman also has a similar FOIA request under BOEM-2017-00201).

This [folder](#) contains:

- The request
- The draft response letter
- 121 pages for release

Sincerely,
Debra Moore

--

Debra Moore
Senior Government Information Specialist
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Department of the Interior
Office: 703.787.1640

--

Vincent DeVito, Esq.
Counselor to the Secretary of Interior for Energy Policy
Immediate Office of the Secretary
+1.202.208.2884
vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

From: Devito, Vincent <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 1:38 PM
To: Moore, Debra
Cc: James Schindler; Scott Hommel; Downey Magallanes; Michael Argo; Joshua Campbell; David Bernhardt; James Cason; Scott Cameron; Andrea Travnicek; Joseph Balash; Katharine MacGregor; Casey Hammond; William Dove; Preston Beard; Landon Davis; Jason Larrabee; John Tahsuda; Blake Deeley; Todd Wynn; Timothy Williams; Jason Funes; Laura Rigas; Russell Newell; Heather Swift; Eli Nachmany; Leila Getto; Natasha Alcantara; Gurney Small
Subject: Re: BOEM-2018-00067: Awareness of FOIA Production Release

Do not include the RPC and BIA communications. Request is specific to BOEM. Thanks.

On Tue, Jun 26, 2018 at 10:22 AM, Moore, Debra <debra.moore@boem.gov> wrote:

All,

As directed by the FOIA Policy Office, this is a 72 hour notification of release of material regarding a FOIA request from Jesse Coleman of Documented, seeking emails from Energy Counselor DeVito to BOEM (please note: Mr. Coleman also has a similar FOIA request under BOEM-2017-00201).

This [folder](#) contains:

- The request
- The draft response letter
- 121 pages for release

Sincerely,
Debra Moore

--

Debra Moore
Senior Government Information Specialist
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Department of the Interior
Office: 703.787.1640

--

Vincent DeVito, Esq.
Counselor to the Secretary of Interior for Energy Policy
Immediate Office of the Secretary
+1.202.208.2884
vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Canceled event: (HOLD) Guardian Discussion @ Thu Apr 12, 2018 8am - 8:30am (EDT) (heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)

Location: Room 5153

Start: Thu 4/12/2018 8:00 AM

End: Thu 4/12/2018 8:30 AM

Recurrence: (none)

Organizer: vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

This event has been canceled and removed from your calendar.

(HOLD) Guardian Discussion

When

Thu Apr 12, 2018 8am – 8:30am Eastern Time

Where

Room 5153 ([map](#))

Video call

(b) (5), (b) (6)

Calendar

heather_swift@ios.doi.gov

Who

•

.....

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this email at the account heather_swift@ios.doi.gov because you are subscribed for cancellations on calendar heather_swift@ios.doi.gov.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and change your notification settings for this calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to modify your RSVP response. [Learn More.](#)



indices

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2018 10:23 AM
To: Vincent Devito
Subject: Re: Dell Scan_04122018101332.pdf

received.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov l Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 10:22 AM, Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

From: Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2018 10:23 AM
To: heather_swift@ios.doi.gov
Cc: vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Dell Scan_04122018101332.pdf
Attachments: ATT00001.txt; Dell Scan_04122018101332.pdf



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

West Virginia Field Office
694 Beverly Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241



June 19, 2017

Mr. Curtis Witt
True Line, Inc.
Post Office Box 85
Thorpe, West Virginia 24888

RE: Berwind Deep Mine No. 1 Protection and Enhancement Plan for the Big Sandy Crayfish,
McDowell County, West Virginia (FWS File #: 2017-I-0203)

Dear Mr. Witt:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the June 16, 2017, protection and enhancement plan (PEP) you prepared for the Berwind Deep Mine No. 1 (Project), located in McDowell County, West Virginia. These comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S. C. 1531 *et seq.*). This project has been assigned FWS File #: 2017-I-0203. Please refer to this number in all future correspondence on this project.

The project is located along Right Fork of Beech Fork of Dry Fork, and is within the range of the federally threatened Big Sandy crayfish (*Cambarus callainus*) (BSC). Dry Fork is a stream that is known to support the BSC. Recent surveys indicate a relatively robust population of BSC within Dry Fork. Physical habitat features in the Dry Fork that are important to the BSC include abundant unembedded slab boulders, boulders, boulder clusters, and large cobble.

The Project is an underground mine in the Pocahontas No. 3 and 4 coal seams that is proposing to affect 28.75 surface acres. Out of the 28.75 acres, approximately 26.75 acres have been previously disturbed, leaving approximately 2.0 acres of new disturbance. Mining activity has taken place in the area since the 1920s resulting in significant disturbance to the Right Fork. Prior mining activity within Right Fork consisted of a deep mine with an associated preparation plant that mined the Squire Jim seam, but ceased operation in 2011. The Project will use an existing haul road to access the site, and will not result in any new disturbances to Right Fork or its riparian areas.

The PEP summarizes the baseline conditions within the area, outlines measures that will be used to monitor aquatic conditions downstream of the mine, and describes how these results will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to determine if additional remedial measures are warranted. Based on the Project's small area of disturbance which will primarily occur over areas with significant prior disturbance, and because there will be no new disturbance to Right

Curtis Witt
June 19, 2017

2

Fork or its riparian areas, the Service concurs that the Project's PEP meets the intent of the 1996 Biological opinion, and that the project is not likely to result in jeopardy to the BSC. The Project's PEP must be a required condition of any permit issued by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Mining and Reclamation.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Chase Allred of my staff, at (304) 636 6586, Ext. 21, or at chase_allred@fws.gov, or at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,



For

John Schmidt
Field Supervisor



Devito, Vincent <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>

Re: THANK YOU!

1 message

Devito, Vincent <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
To: Samantha McDonald <SMcDonald@ipaa.org>

Thu, Aug 17, 2017 at 4:38 PM

yes

On Thu, Aug 17, 2017 at 4:05 PM, Samantha McDonald <SMcDonald@ipaa.org> wrote:

Did you get the information you needed?

From: Devito, Vincent [mailto:vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Samantha McDonald <SMcDonald@ipaa.org>
Subject: Re: THANK YOU!

No problem. Also, just of the phone with Scott at Performance.

On Thu, Aug 17, 2017 at 2:57 PM, Samantha McDonald <SMcDonald@ipaa.org> wrote:

Vince and Greg,

On behalf of my members, I wanted to thank you for the 6-month delay on the Texas Hornshell. They are most grateful for the extra time to allow their significant conservation efforts to come to fruition. It was a good call.

Best,

Sam

Samantha McDonald

Director of Government Relations

Independent Petroleum Association of America

(202)857-4722 / [Visit IPAA](#) / [Visit ESA Watch](#)

4/11/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Re: THANK YOU!

--

Vincent DeVito, Esq.
Counselor to the Secretary of Interior for Energy Policy
Immediate Office of the Secretary
+1.202.208.2884
vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

--

Vincent DeVito, Esq.
Counselor to the Secretary of Interior for Energy Policy
Immediate Office of the Secretary
+1.202.208.2884
vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2018 10:23 AM
To: Bockmier, John
Cc: Laura Rigas; Stolte, Christopher; Wynn, Todd; Michael Argo; Benjamin Cassidy; Eli Nachmany; Faith Vander Voort; Hinson, Alex; Jason Funes; Joshua Campbell; Katharine Macgregor; Magallanes, Downey; Russell Newell; Devito, Vincent
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Energy Summit Save the Date

nix the lightning bolt

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 10:06 AM, Bockmier, John <john_bockmier@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

I have a list of all the edits so far.....I will wait until noon and then submit the changes to our graphic artist.....please let me know by noon if you have additional edits.....thanks

John M. Bockmier



Senior Advisor - Communications
Office of the Secretary MIB 6222
[1849 C Street, N.W.](#)
[Washington, D.C.](#)

[202.208.3636](tel:202.208.3636) Office
[202.897.7366](tel:202.897.7366) Cell

On Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 9:32 AM, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
I gave my edits to John. Thx!

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

On Apr 13, 2018, at 9:11 AM, Stolte, Christopher <christopher_stolte@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Todd,

I can send this out in the Monday Summit mtg. prep material, unless anyone has other suggestions, and they can provide their feedback real-time on Monday if that works for everyone. Hopefully, we can hit send after the Monday mtg., assuming no major changes.

Thanks,

Chris

On Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 8:05 AM, Wynn, Todd <todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Someone may want to run this by the DOE and EPA contacts as a courtesy. I know we have briefly discussed this at one of the last summit meetings but I am somewhat unsure of the role and prominence of the other agencies involved in the summit but if they are playing a somewhat significant role they may want to be included in the save the date. Not trying to overthink this though....

Todd

On Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 9:00 PM, Michael Argo (b) (6) > wrote:
Looks great!

On Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 6:09 PM Bockmier, John <john_bockmier@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Team,

Attached is the Save the Date for the upcoming Energy Summit. Please review and let me know your thoughts when you have time.

Thanks,

John M. Bockmier



Senior Advisor - Communications
Office of the Secretary MIB 6222
[1849 C Street, N.W.](#)
[Washington, D.C.](#)

[202](#).208.3636 Office
[202](#).897.7366 Cell

--

Todd M. Wynn
Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Desk: [\(202\)](#) 208-6649
Cell: [\(202\)](#) 897-7269

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2018 11:31 AM
To: Nachmany, Eli
Cc: Downey Magallanes; Todd Willens; Timothy Petty; Andrea Travnicsek; Joseph Balash; Katharine MacGregor; William Dove; Brian Steed; Vincent Devito; John Tanner; Todd Wynn; Laura Rigas; Newell, Russell; John Bockmier; Samantha Hebert; Leila Getto; Aaron Thiele; Boulton, Caroline
Subject: Re: FIRST DRAFT: Williston Basin remarks

Please add TP about POTUS directed reorganization and also the streamlining of permits and the drop in APD time.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Fri, May 18, 2018 at 10:30 AM, Nachmany, Eli <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi all,

Attached is the first draft of the Secretary's remarks for the Williston Basin. If everyone is good with this, I will put together a briefing memo based on the attached.

Just to be clear - we *are* looking to update our resource assessment of the Basin, correct? That was the impression I gleaned from the USGS materials that I got for the remarks, but I want to be sure.

--

Sincerely,

Eli Nachmany
Speechwriter, Office of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 706-9285

From: Devito, Vincent <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 10:25 AM
To: Heather Swift
Cc: Daniel Jorjani; David Bernhardt; Laura Rigas
Subject: following up

let's discuss. I have much to contribute to be sure the facts are shared. Thanks.

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 3:01 PM
To: Vincent Devito
Subject: Re: Following up

Thanks - I responded pushing back at the analysis of the emails and that you were invited by the state and any addition outreach to stakeholders was to compliment the trip and get a fuller understanding of the project.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:54 PM, Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
I did just a day.

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 9:30 AM
To: Joe Balash; Vincent Devito; David Bernhardt; Willens, Todd; Magallanes, Downey; Daniel Jorjani; James Schindler; Tanner, John; Wynn, Todd; Russell Newell; Laura Rigas; Hinson, Alex
Cc: Blake Deeley; Faith Vander Voort; Preston Beard; Scott Angelle; Wackowski, Stephen
Subject: FOR REVIEW -- press release RPC royalty rate

Please take a moment to review the press release below on not taking the RPC recommendation to lower the offshore royalty rate. **We plan to send the release around noon.** Please send Alex and me your edits if you have any.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov
News Release

Date: April 17, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke, Citing Record Energy Growth Under President Trump, Announces That He Will Not Lower Offshore Oil & Gas Royalty Rates

Improved Economy and Energy Prices Call for Continuing Existing Approach

WASHINGTON - Due to the success of President Donald J. Trump's America-First energy strategy, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that the Department of the Interior will not lower rates on future oil and gas royalties at this time.

On February 28, the Royalty Policy Committee (RPC), re-chartered by Secretary Zinke in 2017, made its initial recommendations, including one to set a royalty rate of 12.5 percent on all Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease sales at all water depths through 2024.

Since then, an improving economy, federal tax reforms, higher energy prices, and greater regulatory certainty have led to positive market conditions, prompting Secretary Zinke's determination to keep the royalty rate in 200 meters of water and deeper at 18.75 percent.

“The pilot light of American energy has been relit by President Trump, and the President’s energy dominance strategy is paying off,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Right now, we can maintain higher royalties from our offshore waters without compromising the record production and record exports our nation is experiencing. The Administration is grateful for the Committee’s hard work on these significant energy issues, but for the time being, royalty rates will remain unchanged.”

In addition to the recommendation for lower royalty rates, the RPC recommended that the Department update its studies on international onshore and offshore data that guide its decision-making, as well as study the comparable offshore producing nations of Guyana and Mexico, their royalty rates, total revenue, lease block sizes, and recent sales in particular.

“Today’s decision reflects the oil and gas industry’s improving market conditions for safe and responsible development of our abundant energy resources,” **said Vincent DeVito, Royalty Policy Committee Chair**. “The Committee will continue to study ways to improve our programs, including recommendations to improve market conditions for other forms of energy like coal and offshore wind.”

Last fall, the Department announced the current fiscal terms used for future offshore lease sales, taking into account market conditions and the need to ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75 percent for all other leases issued, beginning with the August 2017 lease sale. Analogous to the Federal Reserve System – when the market or other conditions dictate, the Department has the statutory authority to adjust royalty rates in accordance with federal law.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act grants the Secretary the authority to conduct lease sales on the OCS that “assure receipt of fair market value for the lands leased and the rights conveyed by the Federal Government.” Lessees pay bonuses, rentals, and royalties reflecting the value of the rights to explore and potentially develop and produce OCS oil and gas resources. These revenues are distributed to the Federal Treasury, state governments, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Historic Preservation Fund. The Department, through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, sets minimum bid levels, rental rates, and royalty rates by individual lease sale based on its assessment of market and resource conditions as the sale approaches.

###

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

From: Devito, Vincent <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 11:51 AM
To: Swift, Heather; David Bernhardt
Cc: Russell Newell
Subject: Fwd: [Deliberative] Press Inquiry re: Endangered Species Act and DOI
Attachments: Guardian responces.docx

Heather,

Did you get a chance to get back to him, last week? This is something we could likely stop with the facts I provided you. **See attached and below.** I am copying David who said he wants to weigh in.

If you do not have band width. I am also happy to respond to him.

Thanks.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jimmy Tobias** (b) (6)
Date: Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 11:32 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Press Inquiry re: Endangered Species Act and DOI
To: vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

Dear Mr. DeVito,

I am a reporter with The Guardian newspaper, and I am taking a look at the role your Office of Energy Dominance played in delaying the listing of the Texas Hornshell mussel as well as its role in developing a conservation guidance for the Big Sandy crayfish in West Virginia last year.

In regard to the Texas Hornshell mussel, representatives of the Independent Petroleum Association of America sent you an email last summer asking that you "intervene" before the species was listed. After the Fish and Wildlife Service delayed the mussel's listing by six months, the IPAA wrote you again thanking you for the delay, to which you replied "no problem." Do you have any comment on your role in delaying the listing of the Texas Hornshell mussel last year? (b) (5)

Also, last summer you took a trip to West Virginia to facilitate the permitting of the Berwind mine before President Trump's political rally in the state in early August. Emails between you, Landon Davis and Jason Bostic of the West Virginia Coal Association indicate that the trip itinerary was actually arranged by the coal association. Do you have any comment on that? (b) (5)

Finally, last summer you signed off in red pen on an guidance that directs conservation procedures for two federally protected crayfish in Appalachia. Is it normal for a DOI political appointee without scientific training to directly approve a science-based guidance of that sort? What sort of briefing or input did you receive from the Fish and Wildlife Service before signing that document? (b) (5)

Please let me know if you get a chance, as my deadline is approaching. Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Tobias

--

Jimmy Tobias

Email: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

--

Vincent DeVito, Esq.

Counselor to the Secretary of Interior for Energy Policy

Immediate Office of the Secretary

+1.202.208.2884

vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

DRAFT
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- I am working on a story about the activities of Vincent Vincent DeVito for The Guardian. Specifically, I am looking at his role in delaying the ESA listing of the Texas Hornshell mussel for six months last year.

✓ (b) (5)

- Emails between Mr. Vincent DeVito and the oil and gas trade group IPAA show that he responded directly to the IPAA's request that the mussel listing be delayed.

✓ (b) (5)

- I am also taking a look at Mr. Vincent DeVito's activities in West Virginia, where documents show he took a trip organized by the West Virginia Coal Association and intervened in both the permitting of the new Berwind mine and also signed off on a guidance document to direct Fish and Wildlife Service efforts to conserve endangered crayfish imperiled by mining activities there.

✓

✓

✓

(b) (5)

I have just a few brief questions:

1. Does the Interior Department allow political appointees without scientific training to intervene directly in Endangered Species Act listing processes?

(b) (5)

2. Does the Interior Department allow political appointees without scientific training to intervene directly in Fish and Wildlife Service policies regarding endangered species conservation?

(b) (5)

3. Do you have any comment on the trip Mr. Vincent DeVito took to West Virginia, which emails show was organized by the West Virginia Coal Association?

(b) (5)

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FYA:

(b) (5)

From: Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 10:09 AM
To: daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov; (b)(6) - D. Bernhardt; laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov; Vincent DeVito
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Press Inquiry re: Vincent DeVito and Endangered Species

See inquiry. I'm out of office with the Sec until 2:30 but can hop on the phone in some time slots if you have any thoughts on this.

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

Begin forwarded message:

Good morning Heather,

I am working on a story about the activities of Vincent DeVito for The Guardian. Specifically, I am looking at his role in delaying the ESA listing of the Texas Hornshell mussel for six months last year. Emails between Mr. DeVito and the oil and gas trade group IPAA show that he responded directly to the IPAA's request that the mussel listing be delayed.

I am also taking a look at Mr. DeVito's activities in West Virginia, where documents show he took a trip organized by the West Virginia Coal Association and intervened in both the permitting of the new Berwind mine and also signed off on a guidance document to direct Fish and Wildlife Service efforts to conserve endangered crayfish imperiled by mining activities there.

I have just a few brief questions:

1. Does the Interior Department allow political appointees without scientific training to intervene directly in Endangered Species Act listing processes?
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3. Do you have any comment on the trip Mr. DeVito took to West Virginia, which emails show was organized by the West Virginia Coal Association?

Please let me know if you get a chance. Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Tobias

--

Jimmy Tobias

Email: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

Website: www.jimmytobias.com

From: Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 1:27 PM
To: heather_swift@ios.doi.gov
Subject: FWS letter

Attached is helpful. I would send to him.

From: Devito, Vincent <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 9:45 AM
To: Swift, Heather
Cc: Scott Hommel
Subject: Re: FYI -- US official appeared to delay protections for endangered species at behest of oil group

Good work. Thanks.

On Fri, Apr 20, 2018 at 9:32 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/apr/20/vincent-devito-trump-interior-department-endangered-species-delay-oil-industry>

Exclusive: US official appeared to delay protections for endangered species at behest of oil group

The energy friendly agenda inside Trump's interior department is revealed in records obtained by the Guardian and the watchdog groups Documented and the Western Values Project

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Jimmy Tobias

Fri 20 Apr 2018 06.00 EDT Last modified on Fri 20 Apr 2018 06.01 EDT

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The Texas hornshell mussel, which saw its protections delayed for months at the behest of fossil-fuel industry groups. Photograph: Joel Deluxe

The Texas hornshell is a sleek green-grey mussel that once thrived in the Rio Grande watershed, its habitat stretching from southern New Mexico down into the arid Texas borderlands. Some of its habitat happens to overlap with rich deposits of oil and gas.

Amid a long-term decline in its range, the Obama administration in 2016 proposed to declare the mussel an endangered species. Upon taking office, however, the **Trump administration** changed tack.

A top interior department official, Vincent DeVito, appears to take credit for helping to delay federal protections for the species at the behest of fossil-fuel industry groups, one of several examples of his willingness to prioritize the needs of extractive industries with business before the government, according to **public records** obtained by the Guardian and Pacific Standard as well as **Documented** and the **Western Values Project**, both watchdog groups.

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DeVito, a Boston energy lawyer and the former co-chair of Donald Trump's presidential campaign in Massachusetts, is a little-known figure in the US government. He is one of a host of **political appointees** hired by Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary whose department oversees well over 400m acres of public land and can determine the fate of species that inhabit them.

Yet DeVito is now emerging as a critical player. At a speech last summer to Americans for Prosperity, a political advocacy group backed by the Koch brothers, DeVito described his role at the department as "the office of energy dominance". Officially, there is no such office, though "energy dominance" has become a slogan for the interior department's **fossil-fuel-first policy agenda**.

"The war on American energy is over," DeVito told the activists, according to a recording of the speech obtained by the Guardian. "And, matter-of-fact, if there is a war, we're going to win it and we're going full bore," he said, before adding that the administration's approach would be a "responsible" one.



Trees older than America: a primeval Alaskan forest is at risk in the Trump era

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Matters for the Texas hornshell case came to a head in June 2017, when the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), an industry trade group, **met with** interior department officials, including both Zinke and DeVito. Two weeks later an IPAA staffer **emailed** DeVito to ask that the species listing be delayed for six months, citing industry opposition.

“We really hope that you can intervene before this species gets listed next month,” Samantha McDonald, the IPAA’s government relations director, wrote to DeVito. In his reply, DeVito asked that McDonald keep him apprised of “what you may be hearing as this unfolds”.

Less than a month later, in August, the US Fish and Wildlife Service granted the delay that IPAA sought. McDonald again wrote DeVito, as well as the acting director of the fish and wildlife service, in an email with the subject line “THANK YOU!”

“On behalf of my members, I wanted to thank you for the 6-month delay on the Texas Hornshell,” she wrote, adding that it was “a good call”.

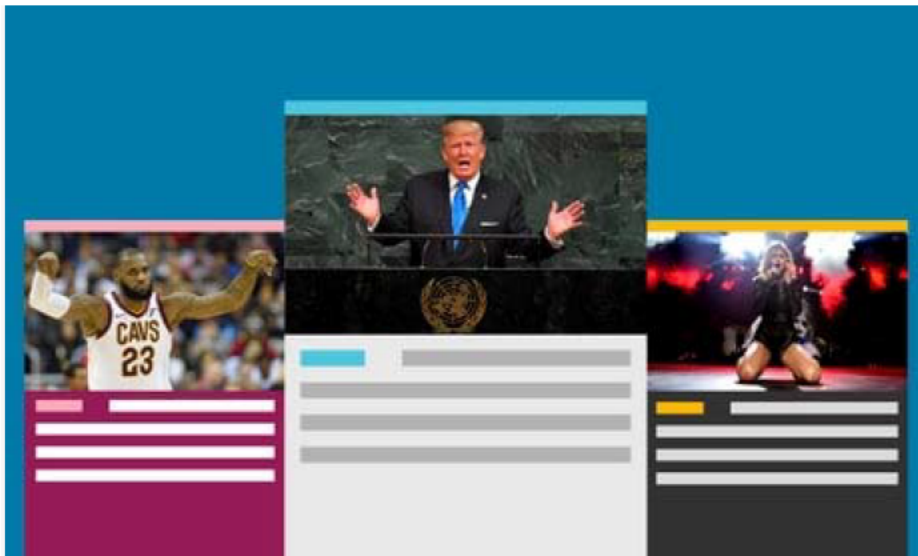
DeVito **responded to** McDonald that same day. “No problem,” he wrote.



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Vincent DeVito has described his role as ‘the office of energy dominance’ and once said in a speech: ‘The war on American energy is over.’ Photograph: youtube

Although the mussel was eventually granted protections in February 2018, former officials at the Department of the Interior (DoI) officials with knowledge of the department’s rules and procedures say DeVito’s apparent involvement in the listing process raises both ethical and legal questions.



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“Listing decisions under the Endangered Species Act are meant to be entirely science-based decisions that result from – in some cases – years of review by experts in the field, not political appointees,” says Elizabeth Klein, a former associate deputy secretary at the DoI during the Obama years and now the deputy director of New York University’s state energy and environmental impact center.

“A delay in and of itself might not be the end of the world – but then again it very well could be for an imperiled species.”

Charles Randklev, a research scientist at Texas A&M’s Natural Resources Institute who has closely studied the hornshell, said the species is “standing on the brink”.

“We were all taken by surprise,” he said of the listing delay.

In a statement, the interior department press secretary, Heather Swift, said that DeVito “disagrees with [The Guardian’s] analysis of the emails”.

Mining is the single biggest factor that has eliminated this species from a lot of its range
Roger Thoma, researcher

DeVito “maintains that he simply responded with an acknowledgement of receipt on the mussel email and maintains he had no role whatsoever in the listing”, Swift said.

Referencing comments by Zinke, she noted: “Political appointees are not at the department to manipulate data, they are here to make informed decisions and policy.”

DeVito’s penchant for “energy dominance” has played out in other ways as well. As **chairman** of the interior department’s royalty policy committee, he helps determine the royalty rates that energy companies must pay to drill and mine on federal lands and waters, effectively encouraging or disincentivizing them.

At his Americans for Prosperity speech, DeVito described how he consulted closely with fossil fuel groups before recommending to Zinke in February that the interior department reduce royalty rates on offshore oil and gas drillers by a third, from 18.75% to 12.5%.

Ultimately, Zinke **rejected that** proposed reduction, but DeVito’s committee and its affiliated working groups labored to deliver on other industry desires as well, including drafting proposals to **roll back regulations**.

DeVito’s energy agenda also took him to West Virginia last year, where he helped coal interests obtain federal approval for a new mine near the habitat of Appalachia’s imperiled Big Sandy crayfish.



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The Big Sandy crayfish. Photograph: Zachary Loughman, West Liberty University

“Mining is the single biggest factor that has eliminated this species from a lot of its range,” said Roger Thoma, a senior research associate at the Midwest Biodiversity Institute who has surveyed the crayfish extensively.

In 2016, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed the Big Sandy crayfish as threatened, meaning new coal mines are required to consult with FWS before initiating projects that might prove harmful. One such project was the Berwind mine, **an underground** coal operation in the southern West Virginia owned by the company Ramaco Resources, several of whose board members are major Trump campaign contributors.

As the Fish and Wildlife Service deliberated through 2016 and early 2017 over how best Berwind and other mines might mitigate potential harm to the crayfish, the industry chafed at the wait. “That is a long time to have multi-million dollar mine project investments that would employ hundreds pending” due to uncertainty around crayfish protection standards, said West Virginia Coal Association vice-president Jason Bostic.

On June 14 and 15 last year, DeVito traveled to West Virginia and came to the industry’s aid. According **to records**, his trip was planned in part by the West Virginia Coal Association itself, which submitted a trip schedule to one of DeVito’s colleagues. The schedule included meetings with the coal association as well as both state and FWS regulators overseeing crayfish conservation in the region.

Four days after DeVito’s trip, the Fish and Wildlife service approved the Berwind mine’s protection plan for the crayfish. In his speech to Americans for Prosperity, DeVito highlighted his role in enabling the mine’s approval.

He loved fixing “small problems the best”, he told the crowd, “because if I go out to West Virginia and I rescue a coal project from bureaucratic entanglement, and then you see two days later the company in the field with guys going back to work, that is pretty rewarding.”



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A coal-fired power plant in West Virginia. Photograph: Paul Souders/Getty Images

Conservationists, however, say the DoI's decision to approve the Berwind mine's crayfish **protection plan** was deeply flawed.

Such plans "are supposed to be these very thorough documents ... about how mining operators will protect the species," said Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity, which sued in 2012 to have the Big Sandy crayfish listed under the Endangered Species Act. "This one is short, and doesn't go into detail. It is woefully inadequate."

During his trip, meanwhile, DeVito went even further, and added his signature in red pen to a plan **that** guides regulatory scrutiny of future mines operating in or near crayfish habitat. Former interior department officials familiar with FWS rules and regulations say that a lawyer and political appointee like DeVito has neither the scientific expertise nor the authority to approve such a science-based guidance.



‘We have to organize like the NRA’: outdoor industry takes on Trump

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“It a scientific integrity violation for a political appointee to essentially leapfrog the Fish and Wildlife Service’s process when you have an Endangered Species Act listing involved,” says Joel Clement, a long-time interior department scientist and now whistleblower who left the department after being pushed out of his post.

“It is absolutely inappropriate. As a senior advisor [DeVito] has no authority of position – so essentially that guidance was not worth the paper it was written on.” Nevertheless, the guidance DeVito signed appeared to remain in effect for nine months, until state and federal regulators **updated and approved** a more stringent version in late March.

In the end, DeVito’s trip to West Virginia helped feed a broader narrative that Donald Trump has promoted.

Less than two months after the trip, Trump arrived in West Virginia too, where he held a boisterous political rally.

“As president,” Trump said to his adoring crowd, “we are putting our coal miners back to work.”

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

--

Vincent DeVito, Esq.

Counselor to the Secretary of Interior for Energy Policy

Immediate Office of the Secretary

+1.202.208.2884

vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

From: Devito, Vincent <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 10:49 AM
To: Ojeda-dodds, Gisella; Swift, Heather; Daniel Jorjani; Laura Rigas; Magallanes, Downey; Willens, Todd
Cc: David Bernhardt
Subject: Guardian inquiry

Gissela,

Can you please organize a meeting for later today with this group. Thanks.

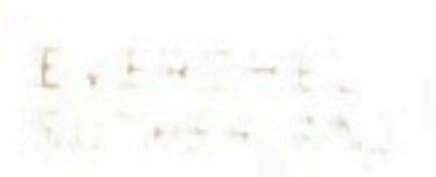
--

Vincent DeVito, Esq.
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Immediate Office of the Secretary
+1.202.208.2884
vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

From: Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 8, 2018 11:18 AM
To: heather_swift@ios.doi.gov
Subject: IMG_1196.jpg
Attachments: ATT00001.txt; IMG_1196.jpg

Speaking to off shore wind conference.

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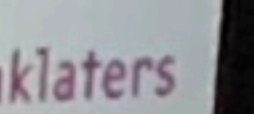
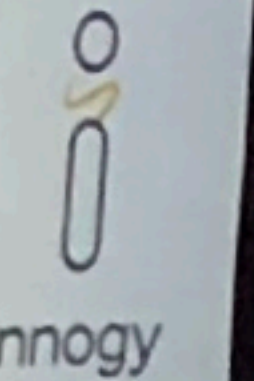
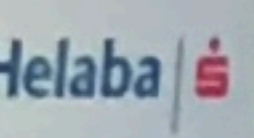
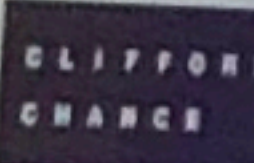
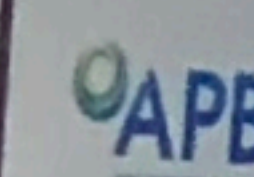


US Offshore Wind

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vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

New Energy Update

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From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 2:47 PM
To: James Schindler; Vincent Devito; Nachmany, Eli; Katharine Macgregor
Subject: interesting article

BALTIMORE SUN

A wind farm developer offered Ocean City free electricity, but resort town is still fighting offshore turbines

Ocean City officials say they don't want offshore wind turbines to be built within 30 miles of the resort town's beaches under any circumstances — not even in exchange for free electricity.

That was among the offers energy developer U.S. Wind recently made to appease concerns that its planned wind farm off Maryland's coast will harm tourism.

The company also dangled other community investments worth hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, and offered to alter its plans if Ocean City agreed to cover the costs of seeking new government approvals.

None of that was adequate to allay fears that tourists will abandon Ocean City and flock to other beaches if Maryland's horizon is dotted with towering wind turbines, though. Town leaders rejected the offer, Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan said.

The 32-turbine project could be the nation's second and largest offshore wind farm, and is part of a nearly decade-long effort to boost Maryland's supply of renewable energy. But as the proposal advances through federal reviews, Meehan said he won't stop fighting to push the project farther off shore and protect beach views.

"We're going to continue to proceed with any avenue we have to address our concerns," Meehan said.

That includes lobbying the Maryland Public Service Commission to reconsider its decision last year signing off on the project, and working to force federal officials to give weight to the community's concerns.

The response from Ocean City has surprised and frustrated U.S. Wind leaders, said Salvo Vitale, the company's general counsel. He said such community investment packages are routine for Toto Holding Group, the Italian firm that owns U.S. Wind, and other developers, and are usually welcomed by shore cities and towns in Europe and elsewhere.

Vitale said the company isn't worried that Ocean City's opposition will kill the project, which falls mainly under federal authority. But he also said the town's demands are unreasonable, and aren't feasible — building so far from shore would require starting from scratch on an offshore leasing process that began in 2010.

"It's a bit frustrating," Vitale said. "What we do not see on the other side is a will to find a solution."

The Public Service Commission approved ratepayer subsidies last year for two offshore wind projects that could add \$1 to average monthly residential electricity bills across the state, a key step in developers' planning and financing the projects. The commission approved U.S. Wind for 62 turbines at least 14 miles off the coast of Ocean City, a \$1.4 billion project. It also approved a 15-turbine, \$720 million project by Skipjack Offshore Wind LLC to its north.

Ever since, Ocean City officials have stepped up their opposition to the U.S. Wind project as they say a clearer and more ominous picture of the project's appearance took shape.

U.S. Wind says it only plans to build 32 turbines at least 17 nautical miles from shore, a distance Vitale said is as far as possible within a federally approved offshore wind leasing area. But Meehan said town leaders don't trust those assurances, since U.S. Wind's initial proposal called for closer turbines.

"Why are they going for approval for a lease area that's closer than 17 miles if they have no intention of putting a wind farm west of that?" Meehan said.

Vitale said U.S. Wind's initial proposal had a larger scale to maximize chances that the project will be profitable, but now the company is advancing scaled-back plans, because that is all the market will bear.

As a gesture of what Vitale called "corporate citizenship," U.S. Wind offered Ocean City officials a memorandum of understanding containing its community investment proposals in March, hoping to gain the town's support. The document suggested exploring a way to offer Ocean City free or significantly discounted electricity, and Vitale said the company also suggested other investments in town projects.

David Friend has been working for 16 years to build a wind farm on Dan's Mountain in Allegany County, but has met opposition from worried neighbors every step of the way. Similar battles are brewing across the state.

(Jerry Jackson, Kim Hairston)

U.S. Wind also said it would consider seeking federal approval for a new leasing area if the town agreed to cover costs of the complicated process.

Ocean City officials say the price for that tradeoff could be exorbitant, in the millions of dollars. And besides, they said, a pristine ocean view is priceless.

"This is not an issue to be decided on a dollar amount," said Bruce Bereano, a lobbyist Ocean City officials hired to represent the beach town in the fight.

The City Council rejected the offers in a closed-door session last month, Meehan said.

The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is still reviewing some of U.S. Wind's plans, and expects to receive more detailed schematics later this year, which it will use to decide whether to approve the project.

In the meantime, Ocean City officials are pursuing every opportunity they can find to force the project at least 30 miles from shore. They pushed a bill in this year's Maryland General Assembly session that would have prohibited offshore wind turbines within 30 miles of the coast, but it failed to make it out of committee.

They have asked the Public Service Commission to reconsider the project because of what they call a major increase in the proposed turbines' height, from 200 feet to about 370 feet. A commission spokeswoman said the panel has not received any notification from U.S. Wind about the turbine changes, but that its chairman has the

power to reconsider a project if it has been revised significantly.

Vitale said U.S. Wind's approvals allow for it to adjust as turbine technology improves, and he called any change in their size "negligible."

Meanwhile, Ocean City officials also are enlisting the help of U.S. Rep. Andy Harris, a Republican who represents the Eastern Shore. Last week, the congressman successfully attached language to a spending bill that "urges" the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to work with state and local officials to reach consensus on the wind turbines' height and distance from the shore before they approve any construction and operations plan for the project.

If the project could harm local communities or their economy, "the proposal must be changed to protect all affected stakeholders," Harris said in a statement.

Vitale said he thinks Ocean City is placing "the interests of few before the interests of many."

And he said U.S. Wind is confident its project will move forward with or without Ocean City's support — the company would just prefer to have it.

"We are sure, 100 percent, their opposition cannot kill the project," Vitale said. "We want to be good corporate citizens."

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Subject: Invitation: (HOLD) Guardian Discussion @ Thu Apr 12, 2018 1pm - 1:30pm (EDT) (heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)
Location: Room 5153
Start: Thu 4/12/2018 1:00 PM
End: Thu 4/12/2018 1:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentative
Recurrence: (none)
Organizer: vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

[more details »](#)

(HOLD) Guardian Discussion

When

Thu Apr 12, 2018 1pm – 1:30pm Eastern Time

Where

Room 5153 ([map](#))

Video call

(b) (5), (b) (6)

Calendar

heather_swift@ios.doi.gov

Who

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Going? [Yes](#) - [Maybe](#) - [No](#) [more options »](#)
Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this email at the account heather_swift@ios.doi.gov because you are subscribed for invitations on calendar heather_swift@ios.doi.gov.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and change your notification settings for this calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to modify your RSVP response. [Learn More](#)



invite.ios

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 10:07 AM
Subject: News Alert: TRUMP IS REORGANIZING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIS INTERIOR SECRETARY IS LOVING IT

The Daily Caller

[TRUMP IS REORGANIZING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIS INTERIOR SECRETARY IS LOVING IT](#)

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Thursday to reorganize the federal government, a welcome move for Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke as he attempts to restructure the Department of the Interior (DOI).

Trump's order directs the Office of Management and Budget to suggest ways to consolidate the federal government, streamlining agencies and repositioning some under departments more closely aligned with each agency's responsibilities, according to a White House statement.

"President Trump is a businessman who knows that an effective operation needs to be organized for success, which is exactly why he is leading this commonsense reorganization of the executive branch," Zinke said in a statement commending Trump's move. "By merging agencies that handle similar, if not the same, functions we would be able to greatly improve services to the American people and better protect the land and wildlife under our care."

Zinke is currently making plans to reorganize his own department, but those plans have been complicated by agencies that he has no control over. For example, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulates many areas in tandem with the DOI agencies in rivers and lakes, but falls under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), under the Department of Agriculture, governs millions of acres that cross over DOI-managed lands or habitats. (RELATED: GOP Backs Zinke's Plan To Totally Reshape The Interior Department)

Zinke's plans involve a massive reorganization that sets DOI agencies in charge of areas of the U.S. rather than breaking down responsibilities by habitat or animal. He can only go so far streamlining responsibilities, however, without help from the White House. Trump's reorganization of the executive branch could fix many of those issues.

"At Interior, we are leading the government reform and modernization by consolidating dozens of regional bureau boundaries into twelve common unified boundaries — down from 61 for the nine bureaus — and pushing more assets and decision-making out into the field," Zinke said.

Some of the moves suggested involve both the NMFS and USFS, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers, which falls under the direction of the Department of Defense.

From: Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 10:31 AM
To: Devito, Vincent
Cc: Laura Rigas; Daniel Jorjani; David Bernhardt; Gulac, Catherine
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Press Inquiry re: Vincent DeVito and Endangered Species

FYI I pushed the deadline to noon tomorrow.

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

On Apr 11, 2018, at 10:27 AM, Devito, Vincent <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

yes.

On Wed, Apr 11, 2018 at 10:25 AM, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Thx. Since the 9:30 was cancelled, might everyone have time for a quick meeting at 10:30 or 10:45am? Adding Cathy for the Dep Sec.'s schedule.
My best,
L

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

On Apr 11, 2018, at 10:09 AM, Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

See inquiry. I'm out of office with the Sec until 2:30 but can hop on the phone in some time slots if you have any thoughts on this.

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

Begin forwarded message:

Good morning Heather,

I am working on a story about the activities of Vincent DeVito for The Guardian. Specifically, I am looking at his role in delaying the ESA listing of the Texas Hornshell mussel for six months last year. Emails between Mr. DeVito and the oil and gas trade group IPAA show that he responded directly to the IPAA's request that the mussel listing be delayed.

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I have just a few brief questions:

1. Does the Interior Department allow political appointees without scientific training to intervene directly in Endangered Species Act listing processes?
2. Does the Interior Department allow political appointees without scientific training to intervene directly in Fish and Wildlife Service policies regarding endangered species conservation?
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Please let me know if you get a chance. Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Tobias

--

Jimmy Tobias

Email: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

Website: www.jimmytobias.com

--

Vincent DeVito, Esq.
Counselor to the Secretary of Interior for Energy Policy
Immediate Office of the Secretary
+1.202.208.2884
vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 10:25 AM
To: Vincent Devito
Cc: Russell Newell
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW -- press release RPC royalty rate

We plan to send the release around noon.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Tue, Apr 17, 2018 at 10:24 AM, Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
This has all the points the Secretary requested. Thanks. When does it go out?

On Apr 17, 2018, at 9:29 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Please take a moment to review the press release below on not taking the RPC recommendation to lower the offshore royalty rate. **We plan to send the release around noon.** Please send Alex and me your edits if you have any.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov
News Release

Date: April 17, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

**Secretary Zinke, Citing Record Energy Growth Under
President Trump, Announces That He Will Not Lower
Offshore Oil & Gas Royalty Rates**

Improved Economy and Energy Prices Call for Continuing Existing Approach

WASHINGTON - Due to the success of President Donald J. Trump's America-First energy strategy, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that the Department of the Interior will not lower rates on future oil and gas royalties at this time.

On February 28, the Royalty Policy Committee (RPC), re-chartered by Secretary Zinke in 2017, made its initial recommendations, including one to set a royalty rate of 12.5 percent on all Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease sales at all water depths through 2024.

Since then, an improving economy, federal tax reforms, higher energy prices, and greater regulatory certainty have led to positive market conditions, prompting Secretary Zinke's determination to keep the royalty rate in 200 meters of water and deeper at 18.75 percent.

"The pilot light of American energy has been relit by President Trump, and the President's energy dominance strategy is paying off," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Right now, we can maintain higher royalties from our offshore waters without compromising the record production and record exports our nation is experiencing. The Administration is grateful for the Committee's hard work on these significant energy issues, but for the time being, royalty rates will remain unchanged."

In addition to the recommendation for lower royalty rates, the RPC recommended that the Department update its studies on international onshore and offshore data that guide its decision-making, as well as study the comparable offshore producing nations of Guyana and Mexico, their royalty rates, total revenue, lease block sizes, and recent sales in particular.

"Today's decision reflects the oil and gas industry's improving market conditions for safe and responsible development of our abundant energy resources," **said Vincent DeVito, Royalty Policy Committee Chair**. "The Committee will continue to study ways to improve our programs, including recommendations to improve market conditions for other forms of energy like coal and offshore wind."

Last fall, the Department announced the current fiscal terms used for future offshore lease sales, taking into account market conditions and the need to ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75 percent for all other leases issued, beginning with the August 2017 lease sale. Analogous to the Federal Reserve System – when the market or other conditions dictate, the Department has the statutory authority to adjust royalty rates in accordance with federal law.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act grants the Secretary the authority to conduct lease sales on the OCS that "assure receipt of fair market value for the lands leased and the rights conveyed by the Federal Government." Lessees pay bonuses, rentals, and royalties reflecting the value of the rights to explore and potentially develop and produce OCS oil and gas resources. These revenues are distributed to the Federal Treasury, state governments, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Historic Preservation Fund. The Department, through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, sets minimum bid levels, rental rates, and royalty rates by individual lease sale based on its assessment of market and resource conditions as the sale approaches.

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Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

From: Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 10:56 AM
To: Swift, Heather
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW -- press release RPC royalty rate

Thanks. At risk I redundancy, the Secretary also asked that WSL be specifically cued in to this announcer.

On Apr 17, 2018, at 10:25 AM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
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-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

From: Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2018 5:55 PM
To: Schindler, James; heather_swift@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Public Radio Reporter query

Hi,

Great. Brice is good. I will talk to him. Thanks.

On Apr 13, 2018, at 5:37 PM, Schindler, James <james.schindler@boem.gov> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **RPC, DOI** <rpc@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, Apr 11, 2018 at 2:12 PM
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Public Radio Reporter query
To: James Schindler <james.schindler@boem.gov>, Christopher Stolte
<christopher_stolte@ios.doi.gov>

Hi,

We recieved this in our mailbox, please forward to Vincent if you want him to respond.

Thanks!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gellerman, Bruce** <bruceg@bu.edu>
Date: Fri, Apr 6, 2018 at 3:58 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Radio Reporter query
To: "rpc@ios.doi.gov" <rpc@ios.doi.gov>

I'm working on a story about the just announced offshore wind lease sites off the coast of Massachusetts.

Please ask Mr. DeVito to contact me as soon as possible. He knows me.

Thanks,

Bruce

Bruce Gellerman

Senior Reporter

WBUR 90.9 FM

@audiobruce

M (b) (6)

O 617 358 0808

bruceg@wbur.org

From: Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 5:13 PM
To: Swift, Heather
Subject: Re: question from press

The U.S. is one of the most desirable off-shore wind markets in the world and an opportunity for American jobs and American generated energy. We exchanged best practices for leasing and flexible permitting. Off shore wind on the OCS is aligned with the President's America first energy policy. There's a new industry of technical and manufacturing jobs coming to the U.S. and Secretary Zinke is paving the runway.

On Jul 5, 2018, at 1:52 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

-I understand that Vincent Devito traveled to Denmark in January for a fact-finding tour regarding the offshore wind industry. What did he find on this trip?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 5:04 PM
To: Vincent Devito
Subject: Re: question from press

Can you please send me some information?

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, Jul 5, 2018 at 5:02 PM, Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
A lot. I am happy to talk to the individual.

On Jul 5, 2018, at 1:52 PM, Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

-I understand that Vincent Devito traveled to Denmark in January for a fact-finding tour regarding the offshore wind industry. What did he find on this trip?

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Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

From: Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2018 4:45 PM
To: Devito, Vincent
Subject: Re: RPC

Roger

Heather Swift
Press Secretary
Department of the Interior

On Apr 12, 2018, at 4:36 PM, Devito, Vincent <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi,

Next week, the Secretary is planning to announce a decision on a recommendation. Please be sure we (including SOL) all gets a chance to review. There is some (b) (5)

--

Vincent DeVito, Esq.
Counselor to the Secretary of Interior for Energy Policy
Immediate Office of the Secretary
+1.202.208.2884
vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

From: Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 8:18 AM
To: heather_swift@ios.doi.gov; russell_newell@ios.doi.gov
Subject: RPC

Please let me review press release before it goes out today. Thanks.

(b) (5) [Redacted]
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(b) (5)

On Tue, May 15, 2018 at 9:23 AM, Nachmany, Eli <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
looping in Vincent

--

Sincerely,

Eli Nachmany
Speechwriter, Office of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 706-9285

On Mon, May 14, 2018 at 6:09 PM, Nachmany, Eli <eli_nachmany@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Hi all,

I am reaching out to request information for the Secretary's remarks at the Williston Basin in North Dakota. Water and Science has already sent me some good stuff on the assessment, but I am certainly looking for anything else relevant for the remarks.

In particular, stats on permitting streamlining, as well as any stories of individuals for whom the energy abundance in the Basin has made a significant and positive impact (perhaps there is a family that has been working for generations, illustrative of the importance that development plays to the regional economy) would be tremendous.

If we have anything on federal land energy production in North Dakota under President Trump (and a comparison to the previous administration) that would be helpful. Thank you all!

--

Sincerely,

Eli Nachmany
Speechwriter, Office of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior

--

Kate MacGregor
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C ST NW
Room 6625
Washington DC 20240
202-208-3671 (Direct)

Subject: Updated invitation: (HOLD) Guardian Discussion @ Thu Apr 12, 2018 8am - 8:30am (EDT) (heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)
Location: Room 5153
Start: Thu 4/12/2018 8:00 AM
End: Thu 4/12/2018 8:30 AM
Show Time As: Tentative
Recurrence: (none)
Organizer: vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov

This event has been changed.

[more details »](#)

(HOLD) Guardian Discussion

When

Changed: Thu Apr 12, 2018 8am – 8:30am Eastern

Time

Where

Room 5153 ([map](#))

Video call

(b) (5), (b) (6)

Calendar

heather_swift@ios.doi.gov

Who

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Going? [Yes](#) - [Maybe](#) - [No](#) [more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this email at the account heather_swift@ios.doi.gov because you are subscribed for updated invitations on calendar heather_swift@ios.doi.gov.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and change your notification settings for this calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to modify your RSVP response. [Learn More](#)



invite.ics

From: Vincent Devito <vincent_devito@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 1:14 PM
To: Funes, Jason
Cc: Todd Wynn; Laura Rigas; Russell Newell; Swift, Heather; Bockmier, John; Nachmany, Eli; Alex Hinson; Vander Voort, Faith; Katharine MacGregor; Joseph Balash
Subject: Re: World Gas Conference - 2 Page DOI Brief For Interagency Booklet

For off-shore: replace “renewable” with - wind. Thanks.

On May 23, 2018, at 10:00 AM, Funes, Jason <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Esteemed Colleagues,

As a follow up to an email sent about a week ago regarding the World Gas Conference and an Interagency booklet to be distributed at the "United States Government" exhibition booth, below is what has been provided to me by the wonderful Kate MacGregor as a 2-page brief about the DOI's role in the Gas/energy market. This has also been run by Dep Sec.

The agency putting together the Interagency booklet will include similar 2-pagers from DOE, State, DOC, USTDA, EPA, DOI, EXIM, & OPIC. They only requested information content be provided opposed to graphics and background as that will be produced by them. However we will have an opportunity for input on the draft before a final product is made.

Please reply to this email with any suggested changes/edits to the content below, otherwise this information will be submitted by COB for the agency to produce a draft booklet.

Comms: there will be a Interagency conference call with Comms/Press shops from the various departments and I need to submit a POC for that. Please let me know who's name/email to submit. I will have a comprehensive memo about WGC made before then for internal use. FYI it was suggested the Interagency Comms call would be a deputy press secretary level call, yet feel free to suggest who you wish.

Also attached is a final version of what our exhibition space will look like.

Thank you all for your assistance,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

Department of the Interior

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) manages twenty percent, or one in every five acres of land in the United States, and manages resources that supply 30 percent of the Nation's energy. This includes 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate onshore, and 1.7 billion acres offshore on the Outer Continental Shelf. For this reason, DOI is the steward and manager of a multitude of our nation's natural resources, including oil, gas, clean coal, hydropower, geothermal, critical and essential minerals, and renewable energy sources. American energy resources on public lands create jobs and revenue. In 2016, Interior's programs were associated with an estimated \$250 billion in economic output and supported 1.7 million jobs in activities that include outdoor recreation and tourism, energy development, grazing, and timber harvesting. With proper policies that foster growth and local input, the Department provides opportunities for new jobs and revenue for state, local, federal, and Tribal governments.

The Trump Administration has made responsible energy development at the Department of the Interior a priority. Executive Order 13783 (Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth) and Executive Order 13795 (Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy) have together called upon DOI to increase access to and reduce burdens on energy development on public lands. By utilizing best science, best practices, and harnessing innovative technologies, the DOI encourages investment on public lands to increase domestic energy development, promote job growth, and keep energy prices low for American families and businesses.

Onshore

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Department of the Interior is responsible for the leasing, exploration, and development of resources on more than 245 million surface acres, as well as the Federal government's approximately 700 million acres of onshore subsurface mineral estate. The agency also has trust responsibilities on 56 million acres of tribal lands for mineral operations and cadastral surveys. Aside from oil and gas, coal, minerals, wind, solar and geothermal development, the BLM also grants right-of-ways (ROW) for energy transmission across public lands, including power lines and pipelines. By the end of Fiscal Year 2017, the BLM has permitted over 94,000 wells on nearly 24,000 producing oil and gas leases. Sales of onshore oil, and gas produced on Federal and Indian lands accounted for approximately 5.3 percent of all oil, and 9.3 percent of all natural gas produced in the United States in FY 2017, and generated approximately \$2.2 billion in Federal royalties, rental payments and bonus bids, all of which were split between the U.S. Treasury and the states where the development occurred.

Offshore

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) are together responsible for managing the Nation's offshore resources. BOEM is primarily responsible for leasing and exploration for offshore oil, natural gas, and renewable energy activities on our nation's 1.7 billion acres on the Outer Continental Shelf, while BSEE is responsible for the safe permitting and inspection of development and production activities. As of May 2018, BOEM manages 2,682 active oil and gas leases on

roughly 14 million acres of the OCS in the Gulf of Mexico, California, and Alaska. BOEM has also initiated a new 5-year planning process to potentially include more acreage for future leasing opportunities. In FY 2017, offshore oil and gas development accounted for roughly 16 percent of domestic crude production and 4 percent of domestic natural gas production. This in turn generated nearly \$3.6 billion in revenue through bonus bids, rentals, and royalties in FY 2017.

Midstream

DOI manages roughly one in every five acres of land in the United States. When energy transits public lands either onshore or offshore through pipeline or power lines, a right-of-way permit must be obtained through one of DOI's several land management agencies. To date, roughly 390,088 miles of pipeline ROW transit public lands. Currently, BOEM and BSEE oversee 21,300 miles of subsea pipeline and 1,309 ROWs offshore. Onshore, there are 358,788 miles of pipeline on BLM lands and approximately 10,000 miles of pipelines on other Federal agency lands that the BLM has approved under the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA). In 2017 alone, BLM processed 858 MLA ROWs.

Federal Revenue

On behalf of the Department the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) collects an average of over \$10 billion dollars in annual revenue -- one of the Federal government's largest sources of non-tax revenue. This revenue is primarily comprised of lease bids, rental receipts and royalties from onshore and offshore oil and natural gas development.

Sent from my iPhone

<Boothfinal.jpeg>

From: Swift, Heather <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 2:41 PM
Subject: Watch: Secretary Zinke on History Channel Thursday 9 PM

WATCH: Thursday, June 14 at 9PM Eastern

Secretary Zinke will be featured in *NAVY SEALS: KILL OR CAPTURE* on the History Channel.

His interview will be weaved in throughout the show in parts to tell the story of different missions he led with the SEALs in Bosnia and Iraq.

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Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov